

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 /116 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM:JAWILLIAMS:ME

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/APU:FORTIZ (DRAFT)

ARA/BC:JKARKASHIAN (DRAFT)

ARA/EP:SPRINGLE (DRAFT)

ARA/NC:FJDEVINE (DRAFT)

ARA/BR:LPEREZ (DRAFT)

PM/SAS:RGREY (DRAFT)

L/PM:JMICHEL (SUBSTANCE)

OSD/ISA:COL.THOMAS (DRAFT)

----- 125610

R 281638Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO CINCSO

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062183

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT:SALE OF TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON IN LATIN AMERICA

1. FYI: A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE IN-  
QUIRED ABOUT PURCHASE OF THE TOW HEAVY ANTI-TANK/ASSAULT  
WEAPON. VARYING DEGREES OF URGENCY HAVE BEEN INDICATED AL-  
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THOUGH AT LEAST ONE NATION HAS SUBMITTED AN URGENT FORMAL

REQUEST. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT EXISTING PRODUCTION IS COMMITTED ELSEWHERE THROUGH MAY 1977. END FYI.

2. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 4, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973 (CONTE-LONG AMENDMENT) MUST BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF TOW FOR SALE IN LATIN AMERICA. UNTIL YOU ARE INFORMED THAT WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE TOW SYSTEM DOES NOT FALL UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE AMENDMENT, OR IF IT IS FOUND TO BE "SOPHISTICATED", UNTIL A NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER HAS BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT, HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED THE AVAILABILITY PROJECTION MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH ONE. REVIEW OF THIS MATTER IS NOW BEING INITIATED, HOWEVER IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHEN FINAL ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED.

3. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE HOST GOVERNMENTS ATTACH SOME URGENCY TO ACQUISITION OF TOW, COUNTRY TEAM CONCERNED SHOULD DETERMINE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON AS AN INTERIM WEAPON. LEADTIME FOR LAW IS 12 MONTHS FROM PROCUREMENT. COST ESTIMATED AT DOLS. 67 EACH.

4. IN SUMMARY, SHOULD TOW BE APPROVED FOR SALE IN LATIN AMERICA, LONG LEAD TIMES MAY NOT SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT WOULD SATISFY THOSE REQUIREMENTS. RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, ANTITANK WEAPONS, MILITARY SALES, CONTE LONG AMENDMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE062183  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PM:JAWILLIAMS:ME  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740068-0092  
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**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALE OF TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON IN LATIN AMERICA  
**TAGS:** MILI, AR, XM, US  
**To:** BUENOS AIRES MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005